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## THE OUTBREAK IN DOMINICA.

THE *Dominican* of the 12th of June presents some melancholy and revolting details of the outbreak announced by the last mail. Of the violence committed by the negroes it is impossible to speak in any terms of vindication or excuse; yet it appears that some of the accounts which have found their way to the public have been exaggerated and inflamed. The following letter from a correspondent of Thomas Clarkson, and sent by that venerable man to the editor of the *Morning Chronicle*, may be regarded, perhaps, as presenting a just view of the case:—

To the Editor of the *Morning Chronicle*.

"Sir,—I send you an extract of a very important letter which I received on Sunday last only, from a friend of mine, a gentleman of high character in Dominica, and I have no doubt that you will think it of sufficient importance to give it a place in your columns. My friend gives me an account of a commotion which took place in that island in the month of June last, in which both blacks and whites were concerned. You may depend upon the veracity of his statements, as I have known him for twenty-seven years, and have corresponded with him since. I send you the extract, because I believe that an account of the commotion will appear in our public papers, and people who have concerns in that island may be alarmed when they hear it, whereas there is no occasion for alarm at all. I am influenced also by another motive. I know well how representations, coming from the West Indies, if they relate to disturbances, have been exaggerated for sinister purposes, whereas, whatever has happened in the present case has arisen solely from misunderstanding. I think I ought to say that I have given you every word of the writer's account as it came into my hands; not a word has been altered or added by me. The only alteration has been the omission of my friend's name, at his particular request.

"I am, sir, yours truly,

"THOMAS CLARKSON."

"Playford-hall, July 9, 1844."

"Knowing the many engagements of Mr. Clarkson, I take the liberty of addressing a hasty note to you rather than to him. I will make no apology for writing, because I am aware of the great interest you feel in all that relates to the welfare of the African race.

"The public papers will speak of what they will perhaps term a rebellion in this island, and the opponents of emancipation in America and France may make exaggerated statements of the affair, in order to retard that great measure. It is important, therefore, that the facts should be known at once. They are simply these:—

"Monday, the 3rd of June, was appointed as the day for taking a census of the population, and it appears now that a very general apprehension was entertained by the black people that this census was designed to reduce them again to slavery. Unfortunately the measure was very hastily determined on, and sufficient care was not taken to disabuse the people of the error, and some of the commissioners and enumerators of population acted, I am afraid, rashly and injudiciously. The people assembled in groups to the number, it is said, of two or three hundred, in about four places of the island, and the rest were perfectly quiet. The president, however, became alarmed, and in the evening of the 3rd, directed martial law to be proclaimed. The troops of the line were not employed. The island militia force was called out and directed to disperse the people. They did this with great ease, at one point on Wednesday, and at two others on Thursday and Friday. One man was shot dead as he was pursued; a woman and three or four men wounded. One man, who made resistance as they were apprehending him, was shot, and his head, with indecent barbarity, cut off, and stuck upon a pole. Another man who was pursued took a knife and cut his own throat. These are all the sad doings that I hear of.

"We have a large number of prisoners in the gaol of Roseau, and I was greatly afraid that they were going to be tried by a militia court-martial. The Governor in Chief, however, Sir Charles Fitzroy, arrived from Antigua yesterday, and, suspended the court which was being formed, and directed that the ringleaders of the riots should be tried by the civil law, and those against whom there is no specific charge be dismissed. Everything, therefore, may be considered as already restored to order.

"These blacks, who assembled, did very wrong. They committed assaults upon several individuals against whom they bore ill-will, and threatened other persons in violent language, and they entered into four or five dwellings in the country, and destroyed the furniture in a manner that looked like personal spite and rage against the owners. But there was no sort of plot—no combination. They met together in the tumultuous manner in which they did, to prevent their names from being taken by the enumerators, under the apprehension that they were again to be reduced to slavery. Such a notion appears utterly absurd to us, but it has to be borne in mind that many of the people here are French, and are perfectly aware that the French slaves were once made free, and afterwards were brought under subjection to their former masters.

"I feel thankful to God that his restraining arm and grace were over and upon these mistaken people in the time of their excitement, for they had the distant quarter of Grand Bay entirely in their power during two days; yet they took no life, they broke into no estate stores, they injured no cattle, they set fire to no property. All this you will be

glad to learn from a source on which you can depend, and you will make what use of the information you please, only not mentioning my name publicly."

But if the conduct of the peasantry is incapable of vindication or excuse, equally so is that of the authorities and the militia. The proclamation of martial law seems to have been altogether precipitate and unnecessary, and beyond all doubt it was taken advantage of for the perpetration by the militia of acts of barbarous and disgraceful resentment. We give a specimen just as we find it in the *Dominican*:—

"On this day Mr. H. Bellot, upon whom the outrages noticed in our last were committed, with seven volunteers and three unarmed pioneers marched to the house of Jerome, one of the principal persons who had so shamefully maltreated him, and called upon him to surrender, which he refused to do, stating that he wished to die; he was then ordered to be taken into custody, but from his violence the pioneers were afraid to encounter him; he next made several attempts to take Bellot's musket from him, when he was charged upon and received a bayonet wound—the pioneers being still afraid to approach him he was shot in the arm and dropped—he however immediately rallied and rushed into his house, issuing again with a rapier with which he wounded one of the volunteers. Bellot then fired, when he fell, exclaiming "He dies," and died. His head was subsequently severed from the body, and placed upon a pole on the Bericoa cross road."

That this was not a solitary case will appear from another extract from the same paper:—

"From Pointe Michelle on Sunday sixty prisoners were sent to the main guard at Roseau, one of whom, named Jean Baptiste, of the Champigny estate, was brought in a hammock dreadfully wounded in the left arm. The circumstances under which he was wounded appear to be as follows:—At about twelve o'clock of the night previous, the prisoner was awoke from sleep in his house by a party of the Saint Luke's Independent Company, commanded by Sergeant James Watson, and a man who was then in the house, named Jean Charles, was arrested on the charge of having struck Messrs. O'Sullivan, Bremner, and Audain. The party had not proceeded many paces from the house with their prisoner when Jean Baptiste, hearing loud and angry words between the prisoner and the militia, ran out for the purpose of advising him to go on quietly, as he was "in the hands of the law," when he was fired on by one named Balson, and received the dreadful wound above referred to. A wound which must have been inflicted (as the doctors say) the muzzle of the gun not being a yard from the poor fellow. Balson says that he challenged the man, and receiving no answer, fired upon him—and such were the orders given him by his sergeant. His wound was immediately attended to by Doctors Stewart and Imray, and he was sent to the infirmary, where we believe he now is being taken care of; but a more dreadful, a more heart-rending fate awaited Jean Charles: upon being arrested and taken into custody he attempted to effect his escape, when a bullet from the musket of one of his guards (whose name we do not know) pierced his brain! His head was also severed from the body!"

We know that martial law is always frightful, and that in past times it has nowhere put on a more terrific aspect than in the British West Indies. But we had hoped that emancipation had somewhat softened the savage ferocity of slavery. Here is one man shot, and dreadfully wounded, in the mere act of persuading a fellow-prisoner to be submissive; and another, when eleven men (and eight of them armed) had come to arrest him, allowed to maintain a struggle for a musket with an individual, and at last, merely because he brandished a rapier—or, we suppose, a knife—shot dead: while in two instances the heads of slaughtered prisoners were severed from the body, and in one instance the head was stuck on a pole in a cross road. Can any excuse be made for such barbarities as these? Do not these acts, samples as they are, demonstrate that the fierce spirit of slavery yet remains in the bosoms of the whites of Dominica? And is not the tendency of them to inflame whatever irritation and discontent may have given rise to this deplorable outbreak?

The country has reason to be grateful to Mr. Hawes for referring to this painful subject in the House of Commons; but we should have been better pleased if Lord Stanley had availed himself of the opportunity thus afforded him of publicly rebuking the ferocity which has been indulged.

## STATE OF CUBA.

OUR information respecting this island by the last mail represents it as in a state altogether unprecedented and terrific. The fierce hatred which had at first been directed almost exclusively against the slaves, has at length poured itself like a flood upon the free coloured population, and the spirit of vengeance is making frightful havoc among them. This entire class, amounting to at least one-third of the population, are represented—such of them as are not already seized upon—as in the greatest agony, their eyes smitten by beholding their fellows go to gaol daily by dozens, and their ears ringing with the tales of suffering to which their husbands, their



children, their relations and friends, are consigned. At the date of our letters there were in the prisons of Matanzas fourteen hundred and seventy persons, mostly free coloured; at Guines and Havana, in proportion. Mention is made of four coloured women who had been imprisoned, one of them very rich, the arrest being, of course, followed with confiscation. A new municipal code is said to be in course of preparation, copying all the worst regulations in respect to people of colour in operation in the United States. The laws and customs of Cuba hitherto so favourable to the coloured class will be abrogated, and the new ones will be the very reverse of them. This impending evil is of great magnitude, tending, as it does, to convert the heart of society in Cuba into a sort of cancer, in which every rancorous and hateful passion shall have play. It appears to be the intention of the government to get rid, if possible, of all the coloured inhabitants, numerous and influential as they are. Accordingly, leave has been given to them to quit the island with passports; a license of which many have already availed themselves, and which many more will be driven to accept. This itself, if it stood alone, must be regarded as a desperate measure, and as a very serious blow to the prosperity of the country, suddenly diminishing both its consuming and producing population by so large a proportion as one-third. Almost all the free coloured persons are men of some useful trade or other, as masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, shoemakers, &c.; and some of them are men of fortune, possessing houses or landed property, or carrying on extensive mercantile concerns. One of them, an African, an old Capatash, has upwards of 60,000 dollars in cash, besides several houses (this poor fellow is one of the imprisoned), and several are believed to be worth 100,000 dollars each. All persons of this class consumed, in proportion to their fortunes, far more than the whites. The amount of suffering and sacrifice of property resulting from their expatriation must be altogether beyond calculation.

It is confidently stated that the government is at length opening its eyes to the mischiefs resulting from the slave-trade, and beginning to be frightened at its palpable results in Cuba; and so, we are assured, are all Spaniards, excepting only the reckless freebooters who are engaged in the traffic. It is stated also, as a matter of certainty, that the junta appointed to report on the present state of the island, have declared their conviction that the slave-trade is "the true and immediate cause of the most alarming and dangerous evils that have place in this island in its present critical position," and most strenuously advised the government to put a final stop to it. Notwithstanding this, cargoes had been recently landed, and were actually selling at the date of our letters. Rumours were afloat that no more expeditions to Africa would be permitted, but that those yet pending must be admitted "from a principle of honour!" This might be taken as a severe jest, if it were not so melancholy and afflictive a truth.

The wrath of the government is directed also against foreigners of every country resident in Cuba, as well as against the free people of colour. Two lawyers of this class had been arrested at Matanzas, on no other pretext than that they had taken a breakfast with Mr. Turnbull. It is stated, however, that, in proportion as the government rages against the native spirit of Cuba, whether in the free coloured or the new white generations, that spirit acquires more distinctness and energy. Misfortune and persecution create sympathy. The government attempt to justify themselves by spreading exaggerated rumours of the intentions of the conspirators, alleging that their plan was "to massacre all the white and coloured people, and to possess themselves of the land;" and by the extreme severity to which they have resorted, they have terrified many into the belief of these imaginations. Our letters, however, state positively that no credit whatever is due to them. Indeed, if the government itself believed them, it could have found no cause for its animosity against the white and free coloured classes.

To these particulars, which we have gleaned from our own letters, we add an account from an American paper, stated to be from a writer "not infected either with a hatred of slavery, or with dislike to the present ruling party in Spain."

"O'Donnell is represented to be a perfect tyrant of the Robespierre school. A correspondent of a Philadelphia journal at the Havana speaks in terms of just indignation at the atrocities of the monster against the poor blacks suspected of rebellion. He says that hundreds of negroes have perished under the lash during examination, all protesting their innocence to the last! And many, if not all of them, as innocent of participation in the plot of an insurrection as the angels in heaven. The place where the negroes are whipped has become very offensive to the neighbourhood, from the quantity of putrid flesh torn by the whip from their backs! A short time since, a Florida Indian, a very worthy man, who had long resided in the island, was arrested, on suspicion of being one of the insurgents. He was taken to Cardenas, where, refusing to criminate himself, he was whipped to death!! On a sugar estate in that neighbourhood 46 negroes were most cruelly tortured, seven of whom died under the operation. On another estate, after attempting in vain to extort confessions of guilt by whipping, those fiends, called in Spanish *fiscales* [solicitors], applied red hot irons to the bleeding backs of the negroes!" The writer proceeds to mention that several white persons have been arrested on suspicion of aiding in the rebellion, and among them several American citizens. 'Samuel Moffart of Delaware, William Bisby of Vermont, and a Mr. Hogan, a native of the United States, are among the number. The latter has suffered a long confinement for having in his possession a letter from a friend in the United States, advising him to leave the island! The first two named were arrested on testimony extorted from a negro after he had received twelve hundred lashes! On being arrested, they were tied to a gang of negroes, and in this condition were driven like convicted felons, under the scorching rays of a tropical sun, through clouds

of dust to Cardenas. Mr. Moffart was confined in the stocks, among whipped negroes, loathsome from their wounds, twenty days, and in irons ten days. Mr. Bisby was in the stocks seventeen days, and in irons nine days; and would have ended his days in irons; but for the interposition of a physician, who assured the Inquisition that he could not survive twenty-four hours longer, being very ill of a fever. Thereupon, he was taken out of irons, and with the medical and other assistance rendered him, he recovered." Moffart and Bisby, after a confinement of seventy days at Cardenas, were sent to the interior for trial. We have not heard the result. If they have instigated the blacks to rebellion, and satisfactory evidence appears to confirm that charge, they have brought their trouble on their own heads; but we learn that General O'Donnell, in reply to remonstrances relative to these persons, speaks in rather contemptuous terms of the United States and our power to enforce remonstrances against Cuba. A few weeks ago, when the American and British shipping in the ports of the island displayed their flags at half mast for three days in succession, out of respect for Murphy, the brave American sailor, so brutally murdered by one of the Spanish soldiers, Governor O'Donnell came down to Matanzas in a terrific passion, demanding to know 'Why those d—d flags were kept at half-mast so long.' On being told, he replied, 'To h— with the United States and her citizens, they have only 8,000 men in their whole army, while I have an army of 20,000 men in Cuba. D—n the United States.' He spurred his horse and galloped off. We have given his very words, as they fell from his lips. The American residents in Havana are so miserably treated, and our government appears to take so little interest in their affairs, that very many of them call themselves Englishmen. A few weeks ago, a British frigate went into Cardenas, and the commander, on inquiry, found that a large number of Americans and English were confined near that place in loathsome dungeons of the Inquisition. The commander of the frigate just placed his guns on a range with the most vulnerable points, and then sent a very civil request for the release of the prisoners. In a few moments the poor fellows were released, Americans as well as English. An American man-of-war (we wish we had her name—we will try and find it out yet) had been in the same port but a few days before, but paid no attention to the prayers and entreaties of American citizens, who were suffering in loathsome inquisitorial dungeons, with the thermometer at ninety. These facts we have from a confidential source, and they may be relied upon. As for Governor O'Donnell, he can speak good English, and if he wishes to answer these remarks, our columns are open to him. We know that he reads our paper very attentively, especially when it contains anything relating to the island of Cuba. If he has unjustly imprisoned American citizens, he may find that the United States government have the power to remove him from his office, which is rather a valuable one. And if Spain refuses to grant our reasonable demands for justice, a few vessels of war blockading Havana and Matanzas, will soon lead to his recall.

It will be seen by our Parliamentary report that Sir Robert Peel made a strong allusion to the state of Cuba in the late debate on the slave-trade. We trust his voice will be heard in quarters to which ours cannot penetrate, and that the Spanish government will take warning while yet there is time for it, and put an immediate end to a traffic, not only so infamous in itself, but so frightful in its results.

#### COOLY EMIGRATION.

THE worst apprehensions concerning this infatuated experiment continue to be realized. We gave in our last a short extract from the *Mauritius Watchman*, stating that several thousand Coolies were wandering about the fields unemployed. The *Friend of India*, of May 2nd, says, "The Mauritius papers state, that no fewer than 8,000 Coolies sent to the island from this country had absented themselves from work, and refused to return to their duty except on higher pay, and that the streets and highways were swarming with Cooly-venders; an assertion which we cannot comprehend." Whatever may be meant by the *Cooly-venders*, with whom the streets and highways are said to be swarming at Mauritius, that eight thousand labourers should be out of employ while yet there is a loud cry for further immigration, is a fact intelligible enough, and of melancholy import too. Some explanation of the matter may be derived from a letter which the *Friend of India* publishes from a correspondent at Madras, from which the following is an extract:—

"The great subject of interest in Port Louis is emigration. At first, I thought the condition of the emigrant much improved; but this opinion was formed from what I saw of the people who came here years ago, and who received high wages, and were thought much of; but the case is altered since the influx of 40,000 during the last year. The Mauritius owes its salvation to emigration, at the expense of from 5,000 to 10,000, who are decidedly in a much worse condition than they were in their own country. This number are now either working for one, two, or three rupees; or, as Coolies for daily hire, are to be seen all over the town. I have had no difficulty in getting any number I wanted of Madras or Bengal people for a very trifle; and their appearance indicated their wretchedness. Many of the Madras emigrants recognised me, and they all regretted their expatriation; many of them have been imposed upon, made to work, and not paid; and others have preferred quitting their hard taskmasters, and flying to the hedges and bushes and into the town; these latter endeavour to find employment as Coolies, and it is surprising at first sight, that the planters do not get them taken up and restored to them; but there is something wrong somewhere, and the least said, easiest mended.' Some engage themselves as domestics, but in all cases they get less than in India, for there is danger in any one's employing them as servants. I cannot see how the Indian labourer is protected at the Mauritius; they seem to me to be literally sold by the importer for from ten to fifteen dollars, and must serve the person they are consigned to for one year, and remain five years in the colony. If they wish to quit their first master, they must give forty or fifty dollars as release money; they have



not the means of doing this, and of leaving the colony before the expiration of the five years, and paying all expenses. It is a farce to say, they can on landing choose their own masters, forty-eight hours being ostensibly allowed for this purpose. The fact is, they are enclosed in a large compound during this time, and taken away by those who have paid for them. The labourers' wages do not now exceed six rupees monthly, and for women and youths are as low as one rupee; they are not paid in specie, this being exceedingly scarce, and, consequently, too much valued to give to them; they are paid in paper currency, or put off in some way, so that at least for the first year they have no choice but to submit. They are not in their own country; they are helpless, without facilities, and cannot find redress. I could give one or two instances out of many, to prove what I have said; but I find I am writing more than I expected on this subject. But to complete what I said, one poor fellow who never took up a pickaxe in his life, was put to work by his master's wife, a negress; he worked, but got no pay, and was badly fed. He flew into town; I saw him and gave him work. I advised him to go to the magistrate or protector, but he was afraid; as I commiserated his condition and he saw it, he dreaded going with me to the police as likely to bring punishment on himself, and disappeared, and I have seen nothing of him since. Another told me he worked for three months and got but two and a-half rupees; he left his master, and was living by purchasing plantains in one part of the town, and selling them in another. We have, where I am living, three that knew me at Madras; they are servants to emancipated slaves, and they get from one to three rupees; and it appears Indians can be procured as domestic servants by the whole sum being paid so as to indemnify the government and importer, and this amounts to about fifty dollars. I am told, the mortality among these poor people is very great. The only good, and this is certainly likely to result to the emigrant, is his being less regardful of caste and his becoming more intelligent in time, from acquiring a foreign language, and intercourse with a mixed description of people."

A new evil also has broken out in the mismanagement of the vessels employed to take the Coolies back to India on the expiration of their term. The facts on this part of the subject are thus stated in the *Times* :—

"The Indian papers brought by the last overland mail record a shocking instance of mortality in a 'Cooly ship,' employed to bring back from Mauritius a number of Coolies whose time had expired. When she left Calcutta to go to the Mauritius with 210 Coolies (the full number permitted), she only lost three of them, including a woman, who died in childbirth. When she returned, she brought 270 Coolies—nearly a third more than her permitted number—and of these she lost 17. To the fact that so much more than the proper number was carried, do the local writers who take the humane view of the question, attribute the increase of mortality, and the melancholy event gives them an opportunity of contrasting the conduct of the public authorities at the Mauritius with that of the authorities of Calcutta to the disadvantage of the former. At Calcutta, as we have seen, no more than the right number could be shipped, and there are at the same place a variety of regulations concerning the supply of provisions for the voyage. At the Mauritius, on the contrary, no such regulations seem to exist, or, if they do exist, they are completely inoperative, and the assertion is well borne out that after the engagement of the Coolies has expired all concern for their welfare ceases. There appears to be no necessity for providing medicine or medical attendance, and all that the captain is bound to furnish is a pound and a-half of rice daily, two pounds of salt fish per week (which is found positively injurious), and some salt and wood, with accommodations for cooking. No regard is paid to the number of Coolies put on board, and the owners may cram their vessels as much as they think fit. Thus, while every precaution is taken on the voyage from India to the Mauritius, through the humane exertions of the Bengal authorities, the very reverse is the case on the voyage back. The government of India is totally powerless in this matter, and the local writers urgently call for interference of the home government. In two ships, it seems, no less than 61 persons have perished."

Is it possible that no regulations have been enacted by the government for the proper return of emigrants to India? Or are these, like some others we have heard of, wilfully kept in abeyance, in deference to the "urgent wants" of the planters? Of course, when they have done with them, all their interest in the welfare of the Coolies ceases, and the owners of return vessels may make them places of suffocation and death at their pleasure! With our contemporary, the *Patriot*, "we do feel inexpressible indignation at the shameful waste of life which has been suffered to take place, to swell the gains of the Mauritius planters."

#### PROCEEDINGS OF RELIGIOUS BODIES IN THE UNITED STATES IN REFERENCE TO SLAVERY.

(From the *Nonconformist*.)

I WILL add a few words respecting the action, on the subject of slavery, of two of our largest ecclesiastical bodies—the "Baptist Triennial Convention," and the "Methodist General Conference." The convention met in Philadelphia the last week in April. It was the largest meeting our Baptist brethren have ever had. The convention meets once in three years, and is constituted of ministers and delegates from Baptist churches in all parts of the country—north, south, east, and west—who are associated together especially for foreign missionary purposes. The "Baptist Board of Foreign Missions" is appointed by, and reports to, the convention. It was feared, and, indeed, expected beforehand, that at the late meeting the slavery question would divide the body. It did not do it; and I have now to tell you how the subject was compromised—for compromised I insist it was. It was agreed on all sides that the subject must be disposed of in some way or other than *sub silentio*. Accordingly, when the convention had been fairly organised, and the

usual committees appointed, the Rev. Mr. Johnson, of South Carolina, slaveholder, offered a resolution, declaring in substance that the "convention is a corporation, with limited powers, for certain specified and definite purposes, and the delegates only assemble to transact the business prescribed by its charter, and no other, and that their co-operation in this body implies no concert or sympathy upon any question not embraced in its charter." A long debate ensued, which was terminated by the offering of the following substitute :—

"Whereas there exists, in various sections of the country, an impression that our present organization involves the fellowship of the domestic institution of slavery, or of certain associations which are designed to oppose this institution,

"Resolved,—That in co-operating together, as members of this convention, in the work of foreign missions, we disclaim all sanction, either express or implied, whether of slavery or of anti-slavery; but as individuals, we are free both to express and promote our views on this or other subjects, in a Christian manner and spirit."

This was adopted, strange to say, with but two dissenting voices. So that now, abolitionists and slaveholders can all come together as one, sit at the Lord's table together, send out slaveholders or non-slaveholders, as it may happen, for missionaries, and do sundry other such like deeds, and then, by the magic of a word, resolve the whole into "no sanction, express or implied, of slavery or of anti-slavery!"

On the same week with the convention, "the American Baptist Home Missionary Society" held its meeting, at which the folly and impracticability of attempting to conduct missions, at home or abroad, after the tenor of the above resolution, had a fine illustration. It is understood that some of the home missionaries now in the field are slaveholders. Whether it be so or not, it is obvious that, in conducting missions in the slave as well as the free states, the question must arise of the propriety of employing such. Accordingly, at an early period of the meeting, for the sake of testing the question, the Rev. Mr. Adlam, of Maine, an abolitionist, offered a resolution, to the effect "that a minister being a slaveholder should present no barrier to his being employed as a missionary of this society." A long and warm discussion ensued, which was continued through parts of three subsequent days, the abolitionists strenuously resisting the appointment of any slaveholder, and the slaveholders and their allies being as strenuous for it. The discussion ended in the adoption of the following resolution, and the appointment of the committee proposed by it :—

"Resolved, That a committee of three from the north, three from the south, and three from the west, with the president of the society as chairman, be appointed, to take into consideration the subject of an amicable dissolution of this society, or to report such alterations in the constitution as will admit of the co-operation of brethren who cherish conflicting views on the subject of slavery."

Our friend Colver and some other staunch abolitionists are on the committee. How they will finally adjust the matter I can hardly venture to predict. In consistency and truth, there is clearly no ground to stand, short of the non-appointment of slaveholders, or dissolution. But for the compromise in the convention I should have no fear. As it is, I wait to see.

The "Methodist Episcopal General Conference" is now in session in New York. This body meets once in four years, and passes in review all the affairs of that church. It is the court of last and highest appeal, and speaks for the whole denomination in all the states. Four years since, at Baltimore, this body decided that the testimony of coloured persons, bond or free, should not be received in cases of discipline in the church against a white man, in all those states where the civil law excluded such testimony. That rule still remains unrescinded. On another point, however, raised at its present meeting, the conference has acted in a manly and Christian spirit, and come to a general result. The case was this :—Within a year or two a Rev. Mr. Harding, of the Baltimore conference, married a wife having slaves. The conference commenced discipline, insisting that he manumit his slaves. He contended that the laws of Maryland gave him no control over his wife's property; and, were it otherwise, that the laws forbid emancipation within the state, and that therefore he could not manumit them. The conference maintained in reply, that, knowing all this beforehand, he yet entered voluntarily into his present relations; and, if the slaves were not made free, he must abide the consequences. He and his wife persisted in their slaveholding, and the conference suspended him from the ministry. He took an appeal, on the above grounds and on some technical informality, to the general conference. The case had a full hearing, occupying most of the sessions for some four days. The question was finally taken on a motion "that the decision of the Baltimore conference be, and is hereby, reversed;" upon which there were *one hundred and seventeen nays, and fifty-six yeas*. The chair pronounced the decision of the Baltimore Conference affirmed by this vote. Mr. Harding's counsel contended that the vote only went against reversing the Baltimore decision, and that a motion to return the case for farther consideration to that conference would be in order. The Bishop (Morris) dissented; an appeal was taken from the chair to the conference, and the Bishop was sustained by an overwhelming majority. It is, therefore, now law in all the American Methodist Episcopal churches, that no slaveholder can sustain the office of a minister of the gospel in good and regular standing. So far as there are such ministers, and such there are in some of the more southern conferences, they remain so in violation of the discipline of their church, as now in—



terpreted and affirmed by their highest ecclesiastical judicatory. Thanks to our Methodist brethren for this: may they speedily perfect the work of expurgation so auspiciously begun.

I will only add, in this connexion, that some weeks since the Cincinnati presbytery, of which our friend Blanchard is a member, commenced a disciplinary process against one of their body for the heresy of teaching that the Bible authorises and sanctions slaveholding. I will endeavour to advise you of the result.

Now ready, price One Shilling and Sixpence to Non-Subscribers,

**THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY;** with a copious Appendix, in reference to the Slave-trade throughout the world; its extent; the cost of endeavours to suppress it; abolition of Slavery in British India, the British settlements in the East, Scinde, &c.; results of Emancipation in the West India colonies; Emigration from Africa to the West Indies; Emigration of Indian Labourers to Mauritius; British subjects holding Slaves in foreign countries; Washington Treaty; Slavery in the United States of America, the Dutch, French, Spanish and Portuguese colonies, and in Brazil; Treaties with the South American republics and with Hayti; Slavery in the East, &c. &c.

London: Thomas Ward and Co., 27, Paternoster-row; and British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, 27, New Broad-street.

#### REDUCTION OF THE SUGAR DUTIES.

Falmouth, Jamaica, 15th June, 1844.

**A**T a PUBLIC MEETING, held at the Court-house, in this town, on Saturday, the 15th instant, for the purpose of taking into consideration the consequences likely to arise from the proposed alteration in the Duties on Foreign Sugar and Coffee, the following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

1st.—That this meeting has heard with feelings of deep regret and alarm, that her Majesty's Ministers have expressed their intention to urge upon the Imperial Parliament a reduction in the differential duties now payable upon Foreign Sugar, and Coffee, without any corresponding decrease in duties payable upon those articles when produced in the British West India Colonies.

2nd.—That such a proposition, if carried into effect by the Imperial Legislature, will expose this Colony to a ruinous competition with Foreign Producers, and will afford unjustifiable facilities to the surreptitious, and indirect, introduction into the Home markets, of Slave-grown Produce; inflicting a lasting and irretrievable injury upon every class of persons connected with, or resident in this colony; it being utterly impracticable for the agriculturists to withdraw from the cultivation of the present staples, and apply their capital, machinery, or stock, to any other remunerating purpose.

3rd.—That this meeting solemnly records its deliberate opinion, that the partial reduction of the duty on Foreign Sugar, without a corresponding reduction on British Plantation, must, and will, give an impetus of immense force to slavery and the slave-trade, by opening new and extensive markets to the producers of slave-grown sugar: and that although some Foreign Slave-holding States may feign the abrogation of slavery, in order to participate in the great commercial advantages afforded by such a course, the measure will in effect, obstruct any intention now existing for the *bond fide*, and final emancipation of their slaves.

4th.—That feeling deeply interested in the success of the great experiment of Emancipation, under which the labouring population have advanced in civilisation, and morality, we cannot but record our belief that the contemplated change will, by diminishing the cultivation of the soil, reduce them to a state of pauperism, and thus prevent their progression in those moral and religious habits so intimately connected with the best interests of the Colony.

5th.—That with the view to avert the impending ruin which must inevitably result from the proposed measure, an emphatic memorial to Her Most Gracious Majesty, embodying the sentiments contained in these resolutions be prepared, and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting; that his Excellency the Governor be requested to forward the same with the least possible delay; and that a petition, also containing the substance of these resolutions, be prepared, to be presented to both Houses of the British Parliament: that the signature thereto of all classes be most earnestly invited, and that the several Ministers of Religion be requested to submit the same to the labouring population for signature, the subject in question being one in which their welfare, with every other interest in the community, is equally involved.

6th.—That the chairman of this meeting, and a committee to be named by him, be requested to take such other steps as may be deemed most advisable and expedient, in forwarding the general objects of this meeting.

7th.—That copies of the foregoing resolutions be published in the *Times*, *Morning Herald*, *Colonial Gazette*, and *Anti-Slavery Reporter*, in England; and also in the *Cornwall Courier*, *Falmouth Post*, and *Baptist Herald*, in this island.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

GEORGE MARRETT,  
Chairman.

#### NOTICES.

**THE ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER** is an Evening Paper, published on alternate Wednesdays, and may be had of all News-venders throughout the country. Price 4d., or 8s. 8d. per annum. A few complete volumes are on hand.

All Communications for the Editor of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* must be sent to the Office of the Society, as above.

Subscriptions and Donations to the Society should be forwarded to the Treasurer, (G. W. Alexander, Esq.) at the Society's Office, 27, New Broad-street, London.

### The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, JULY 24, 1844.

THE subject of the slave-trade was brought under the notice of the House of Commons by Lord Palmerston on the 16th instant, on a motion for papers, the production of which was granted without opposition. His lordship's speech was elaborate and powerful, and will be found well worthy of perusal. The reply of Sir Robert Peel is valuable, as a distinct declaration of the views and policy of the government; but more particularly for the acknowledgment it contains, that, whatever measure of success may attend the employment of an armed force for the suppression of the African slave-trade, *the trade can never be suppressed* while the governments of Spain and Brazil encourage it.

THE advices by the West India mail are not of great importance. While Jamaica suffers from drought, British Guiana is afflicted with too much rain. The agitation on the sugar-duties has become general, but must, of course, be fruitless. The best news brought by this conveyance is that the Swedish government has determined to release the slaves at St. Bartholomew's, now said not to exceed 300. This statement has been "communicated" to the *Jamaica Morning Journal*, and we sincerely hope it may be true. The tidings from Dominica and from Cuba we have noticed elsewhere.

WE draw the particular attention of our readers in the colonies to the remarks made by Lord Stanley in the House of Commons on the subject of immigration loans. His lordship, it seems, is disposed to favour the principle of such loans, looking well to the conditions of them. Our friends in the colonies, therefore, must look well to this matter, too. It is understood that no such loan will be permitted to be secured, like that proposed in British Guiana, exclusively on the imports of the colony.

THERE seems to be a tide in the opinions, as well as in the affairs, of men. Even the cry for immigration, which has been performed for several years past so pre-eminently *und voce* by the whole West India party, begins to be broken in upon by some discordant sounds. First of all we have Mr. Macqueen, the well-known and unscrupulous partizan of the planter body, in the first of a series of letters which he is addressing to Lord Stanley in the columns of the *Morning Herald*, expressing himself as follows. He says that immigration is, "*when the expense and all its probable consequences are considered, terrific to contemplate, with very doubtful success.*" He sees in a strong light—but not more strong than just—the fearful consequences resulting from an almost exclusive importation of males. That emigrants should be "*brought (he says) in an equality of sexes, or in families, is the only way to prevent destructive immorality.*" He further estimates the number of immigrants which would be necessary for the West Indies at the vast number of 300,000; and adds, "*the expense of bringing these, at 15*l.* each, will amount to 4,500,000, with the almost certainty of paying nearly as much more to carry them back!*" He sees also great difficulty in the question of wages, admitting it to be the design of immigration to force them down much lower than they are, and foreseeing that "*a severe struggle will ensue*" before the negro labourer will be brought to submit to this "*in colonies where unoccupied land is so abundant.*"

Then we have the *Morning Herald* itself, in a leading article, which seems to have taken its tone from the same causes as Mr. Macqueen's letter, arguing strongly against immigration, and denouncing specifically every form in which that project has appeared. We regret that we cannot transfer the whole of this article to our columns; the following, however, are the concluding remarks:—

"Such have been the steps taken and the course adopted by this country to preserve our tropical colonies, and to restore their prosperity; and in these senseless proceedings six precious years have been lost, and the destruction of the colonies been rendered all but complete, while the commercial preponderance and prosperity of the empire have been endangered. Such are the results of attending to ignorant and interested counsellors, and of that listlessness and apathy displayed in everything, either in the torrid zone, or that is connected with it, in this country. Had one twelvemonth of the time thus lost been occupied judiciously and energetically amongst the emancipated population of the British colonies, to teach them their duty to their country and to themselves, all would have been well, the colonies would have been flourishing, their produce ample and profitable, and additional labourers unnecessary."

What is at the bottom of this change of opinion it is not for us to say. It is enough for us to express our pleasure on the adoption by our contemporaries of such sound views, and our hope that the West India body will not hesitate to embrace them, now that they come from quarters so little liable to suspicion.

THE resolutions passed at Falmouth, Jamaica, in relation to the sugar-duties, have been sent us as an advertisement, and we have inserted them accordingly. There is nothing in them, however, requiring the discussion of the subject to be revived.

THE AMISTAD AGAIN.—A movement is now being made in Congress to indemnify the owners of the schooner *Amistad* for that vessel, and likewise for the captives thrown upon our shores. The sum demanded is 50,000 dollars. The Committee on Foreign Affairs reported in favour of appropriating the sum of 50,000 dollars for the traders in human flesh in Cuba.—*Liberty Press* (United States).



## Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY, JULY 15.

## IMMIGRATION OF HILL COOLIES.

Mr. MACLEAN asked the right hon. gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the subject of immigration was under the consideration of government, and whether the West Indies were likely to possess the benefits of the proposed system?

Lord STANLEY said that the important subject of immigration to the West Indies divided itself into three parts. First, whether immigration should take place; secondly, whether it should be promoted by means of a loan saddling the revenues of the colony; and thirdly, whether Parliament was inclined to sanction a grant from this country. As to the first question, his hon. friend was aware that instructions had already been sent to the Governor-General of India to remove the impediments which stood in the way of the introduction of labourers into the West Indies. As to the second point, government had gravely considered the question of the policy and expediency of raising a sum by way of loans; and to the principle of meeting the expenditure by means of loans, supposing the conditions were not objectionable, her Majesty's government did not interpose any objection. Demerara, Trinidad, and Jamaica were the principal colonies which sought by acts of their legislature to raise a loan to introduce a larger amount of labourers than they had now the power of introducing. It would be for those legislatures to consider the conditions, as it would be for government to intimate to those legislatures the basis of the conditions on which it was probable the loan would be granted. As to the third question, whether parliament would be inclined to give its sanction to a loan, giving the credit of this country for the payment of the principal and interest, that was much too grave a question, and involving too many serious considerations, to submit to Parliament at this period of the session, and under present circumstances. If any such proposition were to be made, it appeared to government that it would be made with much more advantage when they should be able to state to parliament what were the conditions to which they should be ready to submit.

TUESDAY, JULY 16.

## THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Lord PALMERSTON, in rising to make the motion of which he had given notice for several returns relating to slavery, which returns, he presumed, her Majesty's government had no objection to grant, wished to make some few observations on the subject of the slave-trade. The subject, which was one of great interest and importance, was not new to the house, but had now for nearly half a century engaged the attention of parties. All the most distinguished and most eminent men who had lived during that period had exerted all the energies of their minds to put an end to this abominable traffic, whether sitting on the one side or the other,—whether within or without these walls. They had so far succeeded, that they had rescued this country from the foul stain of slavery, and, as a consequence of the abandonment of the trade, the condition of slavery itself was abolished throughout the dominions of England. It was well known that these great results were not accomplished without much labour, and without much lapse of time. Many years had elapsed since those investigations had taken place, which, by laying bare in all their hideous deformity the disgusting atrocities connected with the prosecution of the slave-trade, brought round the minds of men, in England at least, to pursue that guilty traffic no longer. These details had been well-nigh forgotten; and there were few who, at this time of day, could form to themselves any adequate conception how intense was the suffering, and how extensive was the cruelty, of which the slave-trade was the cause. It was difficult to arrive, with any degree of certainty, at a calculation of the number of negroes who were annually landed on the continent of America for the purpose of being there consigned to slavery. The governments of the countries in which these negroes were sold permitted no return. Therefore, all accounts must be in some degree conjectural. One thing, however, we might be sure of, viz., that they must fall exceedingly short of truth. What, then, were the numbers which, it had been calculated, was the annual importation into the islands and continent of America? Vandervelt, in his most able work on the subject, compiled from official documents, and containing, in a condensed form and in a small compass, more valuable information than, perhaps, any work of equal size could afford—Vandervelt, a man of the greatest industry and character, calculated the number of those annually landed, during the two previous years, at 120,000 or 130,000. Sir Powell Buxton, in his work, a most interesting and most valuable work, put the number at 150,000, at least. Whichever of these two numbers we took, whether we considered the annual importation of negroes as represented by 130,000 or 150,000, what an enormous amount of human misery and of human crime did that simple statement afford! Let any man consider within himself what 150,000 people were. Let any man who had seen large armies collected think whether it had ever fallen to his lot to see 150,000 men collected at once under his eye; or let any man imagine that he saw that number assembled—that as they passed by they were travelling fast towards their doom—that that mass of human beings was doomed to a painful and to a premature death under every variety of bodily and mental torture; if he was told that that was not a single case, but that year after year the same ground was trodden by an equal number, urged forward to the same melancholy doom—could any man who saw such a state of things brought before his eyes fail to hope for the vengeance of Heaven on those who were the authors of such enormities? And what would not be the condemnation which he would pass upon those who, although able, had neglected to employ the means of preventing those evils? It was calculated, and he believed not without true data, that, for every negro who had landed, two others had perished in the previous stages of slavery. Whatever number, therefore, might be landed, you must multiply that number by three to arrive at the total number of human persons swept from the population of Africa only by this detestable slave-trade. It was well known that the negroes were not collected in the immediate neighbourhood of the places at which they were embarked. They came, many of them, from a great distance in the interior of Africa; they were marched many hundreds of miles from the interior to the coast; some of them were cap-

tives taken in war—in war stimulated and brought on by the thirst of gain to be derived from the sale of the captives; but the greater number were the result of that slave-hunting and man-stealing which prevailed almost all over the interior of Africa. The way in which that took place was shortly this:—When the time of year came round for sending a slave caravan to the coast, some peaceful, happy village, whose unsuspecting inhabitants were buried in that repose which nature had kindly bestowed upon man to fit him for the useful occupations and innocent enjoyments of the succeeding day—some peaceful African village, in the dead of night, was surrounded by the armed ruffians of some neighbouring prince; the huts of which the village was composed were fired, the inhabitants, roused from their sleep by the flames in which they were enveloped, rushed forth, and endeavoured to escape, some by flight, some by resistance; all attempts were in vain; those who resisted were overpowered, and either slain or made captives. Sometimes a hill village was attacked, which afforded greater means of escape. The inhabitants fled to the neighbouring caverns, and some took refuge on higher ground; the caverns were besieged, fires were lighted, and those who had taken shelter were compelled to a choice between suffocation within or captivity without. The wells and springs on which the natives depended for water were occupied, and those who fled to higher ground were soon compelled, by the incurable torments of thirst, to come down and barter their liberty for their lives. Slaves were then made, and then came the selection. The hale and healthy of either sex, children between six and seven years of age, were put aside to be marched with the caravan to the coast; the aged, the infirm, the infant torn from its mother's breast, the child under six or seven years of age wrenched from its parent's grasp, was murdered on the spot. As to the aged, it would be impossible, it would be without profit to maintain them, consequently they were left to perish of hunger. The caravan set out; men, women, and children, half naked, bare-footed, the weak driven on by the lash, the strong restrained from flight by yokes and chains, were marched hundreds and hundreds of miles across the burning sands, over the stony passes of the African mountains. Some dropped down dead as they went along, and others were left a prey to wild beasts. Multitudes perished in that way, and travellers who had visited the interior told, that slave caravans might be traced by the bones of hundreds, nay, of thousands of human skeletons which lay bleaching in the path. The slaves having arrived on the coast, were sometimes detained for weeks before the arrival of a slave ship; and from the manner in which they were packed together, death was busy in thinning their ranks. The captain of the slaver having at length arrived, he went into the market and made his selection, taking care to reject those in whom he thought he detected disease, and selecting only those whom he had a prospect of getting safe to his destination. Those who were rejected were put out of the way in some manner, or were left to perish. The calculation, and he believed it was not at all exaggerated, was, that whatever number of slaves were put on board, at least an equal number perished previously, either in the seizure, during the march, or the detention in the barracoons. Then came the passage, and with it a scene of greater suffering—of such intense horror, that it was out of the power of any man to conceive it who had not seen it. It was a well-known fact, that whatever might be the size of the slave-ship, the slave-captain always took a fourth or a third more than his ship was calculated to hold. This was done on a true arithmetical calculation, just as a person who was sending a pipe of wine round upon the Indian voyage always sent a quarter-cask, in order to make up for leakage and evaporation; so the slave captain took an extra number of slaves on board, to make up for the deaths he felt certain would occur during the passage. Because, although he chose none but those whose appearance gave indication of health, still he was aware that many of them might have the seeds of disease lingering in their constitution, which grief, the change of diet, and want of good air would bring out; therefore it was that he provided himself with a supernumerary cargo. But that provision only aggravated all the evils attendant upon the horrid trade, and caused more vacancies in consequence of the care taken to fill them up. The result of all these circumstances was, that scarcely a day passed on which dead bodies were not thrown overboard. But was that all? He was sorry to say that, so far from it, it was too clearly proved that the living were very often committed to the deep along with the dead. It was well known that on board ship the slaves were often well enough in the morning, sickened in the evening, and were corpses before the next day. No doubt in that case they were put overboard; but where the disease assumed a lingering form, and the slaver saw that the slave must inevitably die before he could get him to market, or, if got there, would be valueless, he knew that he had already suffered a certain loss; and in order to keep it at the minimum, and to save the further loss which must accrue by keeping him, the order was given, and overboard the living victim was hurried (hear, hear). That was by no means an uncommon transaction. He was sorry to say that it was not uncommon even in our own ships when this country tolerated the detestable traffic. It was in proof in a trial which took place in this country, that an English ship, commanded by a person named Collingwood, was, in 1783, on a voyage to Jamaica with a cargo of slaves, the ship got out of her course, the water ran short, and the provisions were scanty. The captain, knowing that if the negroes died from want his owners would not recover the insurance money, but that they would if he could make it appear that he was compelled to throw them overboard, did not hesitate, but in that manner sacrificed 132 lives. Those ships were often subject to ophthalmia, and sometimes to wreck. It was in evidence before a committee of that house, that a French slave ship was overtaken by the disease, and only one man on board was capable of steering the vessel. On the passage they fell in with a Spanish ship, also a slaver, which was apparently drifting at the mercy of the wind and waves: on board of that ship there was not one man who could see to steer her or direct her course; she, however, arrived at Guadaloupe, but the French vessel was never heard of more. The spaces in which the slaves were confined on board ship were necessarily small. The bottom of the hold was filled with water-casks; they were covered over with a platform of unplanned boards, and on them the naked negro was compelled to lie. Sometimes they had nothing but loose boards. The distance between that platform and the next deck never exceeded three and a half feet, sometimes it was not more than two and a half, and necessarily the negro was confined in a very small compass;



indeed, so much so, that one of the witnesses said "a negro on board a slave ship had not so much room to lie in as a man in a coffin." How pestilential must be the air of such a place; the effluvia must be horrible. In order to remedy that as much as possible, the hatchways of slave-ships were made larger than in those devoted to legitimate commerce, and were covered with an open grating. In fine or even in moderate weather those precautions might answer the purpose; but when they were overtaken by a storm those gratings were obliged to be covered over in order to prevent the sinking of the ship, and then how horrible must be the sufferings of those so huddled together below. He would not attempt to depict the scene. Any one wishing to make themselves acquainted with the horrible facts would find them ably and faithfully detailed in the pamphlet of the Rev. Mr. Hill, entitled, "Fifty Days on board a Slaver." The rev. gentleman attributed the scenes he witnessed to the inexperience of the prize crew, and that what he witnessed must be unparalleled; in that, however, he was mistaken, for it had been proved over and over again, that many died of suffocation hourly while the storm lasted. From all these various causes, it was calculated that at least one-third of the negroes taken on board perished before they reached the coast of America, so that there was another fearful amount to be added to the number which had perished before; in fact, if 150,000 slaves reached the coast annually, the cost to Africa was between 300,000 and 400,000 lives. He believed that all the crimes of the human race, from the creation of the world down to the present moment, did not exceed the amount of guilt that had been incurred in the detestable slave-trade (hear, hear). Such being the case, was it not the duty of every government, and of every nation which possessed the means of discouraging that trade, to employ all the means vouchsafed to them to put it down? and if there were any government or any nation on whom that duty was more peculiarly pressing than another, it was ours. He admitted that much had been done, and that both our government and the nation might look back with satisfaction on the efforts which had been made, and which had met with, at least, partial success. The late government had done their duty in that respect. They had laboured zealously, and with some success, in increasing the number of Christian powers engaged in a common league against this odious trade, and had obtained treaties for its suppression from every American state, except the United States of North America. (Hear.) They had also obtained similar treaties from France, and some of the other powers of Europe; and it was their intention to have gone further. (Hear, hear.) He was concerned to say that, as far as his information and that of the public went, things had not since gone forward, but had rather gone backwards, and that the great strides made by the present government were not towards the suppression of the slave-trade, but towards its revival and extension. The treaty between the five powers, the signatures to which would have been readily obtained as a compliment to the administration that then ruled this country, was in point of fact laid aside. If that treaty had been signed within a month or a fortnight of the present government coming into power, two months being allowed for the exchange of ratifications, it would have been ratified, and would be now in force. But great was his surprise to find that the treaty was not signed till the latter end of December, that was four months after the government came into office. He would not impute blame where he could not show grounds for it. The delay might have arisen from circumstances beyond the control of the government; but the result was peculiarly unfortunate. The result was, that the French Chambers met before the two months allowed for the exchange of ratifications had elapsed, and General Cass, the American envoy at Paris, wishing, in the natural discharge of his duty, to save his government from what he thought an embarrassing position, put every means in requisition to prevent the ratification of the treaty. Pamphlets were circulated, national jealousies were revived, the war party were appealed to, and an address was voted by the Chambers to the Crown. What was that address? Was it an address praying the Crown not to ratify the treaty? No. The address assumed that the treaty was signed, and it therefore merely prayed the Crown to see that in the execution of the treaty due care should be taken of the honour and interests of France. The French government, thereupon, thought that that address, and the debate by which it was preceded, justified them in refusing to ratify the treaty, and they accordingly refused to ratify it. He did think that that was the greatest departure from the established principles of diplomatic intercourse which had been known in Europe in modern times. It was an established principle of diplomatic usage to fulfil the engagements entered into by a duly authorised plenipotentiary, unless it could be shown that he acted without instructions, or against instructions. In this case neither was alleged. The signature was given in pursuance of instructions from the French government, and every other step taken by their plenipotentiary was confirmed by that government. They justified their refusal to ratify by an analogous step, which they said took place between the King of Prussia and the King of the Netherlands with reference to Luxembourg; but the King of the Netherlands did ratify that treaty, and, therefore, there was no precedent for such conduct. He was the last man to say that the refusal of the French government ought to be a cause of anything like a collision or an estrangement between the two governments. There were other and greater interests at stake which required the continuance of a cordial understanding between the two countries. But at the same time he thought that it was the duty of the British government to record their protest against such a departure from the established usages of diplomatic intercourse. No such protest had been made; they had it on the authority of the French minister, who declared in the Chamber that the British minister had made no complaint or remonstrance on this subject. If they were to look to this transaction as a precedent for future proceedings, they would see that the government had not done its duty in abstaining from putting on record its protest against it. The moment the ratification was refused by France there was an end of the league, as the British government did not think it worth while to ask the other four powers to ratify the treaty. That was a great step backwards. It might be no fault of theirs, but it occurred during their management of public affairs. Then came the letter of the noble lord, who presided over the foreign department, to the Lords of the Admiralty, in May, 1842, on the subject of the proceedings which they (the late government) had sanctioned on the coast of Africa, with respect to the barracoons. That letter had a most injurious effect (hear). That letter produced a great sensation.

He knew from various sources of information that before it appeared the parties engaged in the slave-trade were disgusted, dismayed, and dispirited. But when that letter became public, it had the effect of persuading them that the present government meant to leave them alone and not to meddle with them. He looked on that letter as another unfortunate step. Then came the Ashburton capitulation (hear, and a laugh), by which we surrendered not only a large extent of territory, but also all claim to demand of America the fulfilment of the article of the treaty of Utrecht. He did not hold that that treaty could bind succeeding American governments, for they, of course, would be at liberty to repudiate it; but, at the present time, the American government could have had no ground for refusing to comply with it. This proceeding on the part of the present government was most unfortunate, and must tend to raise the spirits of the slave dealers. This was one point which he wished to clear up by the returns for which he now moved, as he was led to believe that the numbers of slaves imported into the West Indies and Brazil in 1843 exceeded the numbers imported in the two or three preceding years. He should be told that her Majesty's government were anxious to put that trade down, and that they were using every possible activity for that purpose. He had entire belief in their sincerity; he would not imply the slightest doubt of their sincerity; but he had great doubts of the success of their measures. We were to have a blockade of the coast of Africa, and all the cruisers were to be drawn from Brazil and the West Indies to be concentrated on the coast of Africa. This might be deemed a good plan by officers who had been engaged on the coast of Africa; but he should like to know the opinions of the officers who had been engaged on the coast of the West Indies and Brazil. He knew what great applications had been made for an increased force on those coasts, but he also knew that many officers concurred in the expediency of transferring the cruisers to Africa. He had no intention of opposing his own opinion to that of practical men, but he must say that by such a course they would be likely to lose one chance out of two, (hear, hear.) To think of blockading with the fleets of England and France and the 90 guns of the American government (a laugh) the coast of Africa from the northern part on the west side, where the trade begins, to the northern part on the east side, where it ends, was quite preposterous. All that could be done was to give the cruisers shorter distances to guard, and to make them exercise more vigilance and attention. The greater part of the west coast was so studded with islands that a slaver might easily lie among them, and you might go within half a mile of the spot without seeing her. The number of places on the coast where slaves might be embarked was so great that it was useless to think of establishing a blockade in such a sense, at least, as we commonly understood the word, and if a ship once escaped the coast of Africa, she would have a fair run, and would be perfectly safe till she reached the port of destination. But he would ask, had the two governments considered the difficulties of this arrangement, arising from the narrow and confined limits of the French treaty? South of the tenth degree of latitude, on the western coast of Africa, and all along the eastern coast, there was no mutual right of search between England and France. This did not signify as long as they had cruisers on the coast of Brazil; for, if a French ship should attempt to escape, and should be caught in the middle voyage, you could seize and deliver her to her own tribunals on the coast of Brazil; but if you withdrew the cruisers from the coast of Brazil, and should fail to obtain the mutual right of search on the parts of the African coast where you had not it now, the slave-trade would be carried on from those parts in French ships and under the French flag. That was a point worthy of the attention of the government. It would be no answer to say that those parts would be watched by French cruisers, for, knowing that there was not the same feeling in France about the slave-trade as there was in this country, he could not place the same confidence in the vigilance and activity of French cruisers for the suppression of that trade as he would in the cruisers of this country. He begged to move for "A return, showing the total number of African negroes landed for the purposes of slavery on the islands and on the continent of America, from the year 1815 to the year 1843, both inclusive; distinguishing the number so landed in each of those years, and distinguishing also the number landed in each year on the territory of each separate state or power, so far as the same can be made up from documents in the possession of her Majesty's government."

The question having been put,

Sir R. PEEL said: In all the first part of the speech of the noble lord I cordially concur. I do believe that this is the most iniquitous traffic that ever existed—that it engenders more of misery—that it stimulates to more of crime than any public act which was ever committed by any nation, however regardless of the laws of God or man (hear, hear). Possibly the noble lord has rather overrated the number of slaves actually landed at the different ports on the coast of America and on other coasts. I may possibly differ from him as to the full extent to which slaves have been landed. For a succession of years the noble lord estimated them at 150,000. I think we may take the number at 100,000; but even if my estimate be the more correct one, I concur with him that the number actually landed is no test whatever of the misery and suffering inflicted on the people of Africa by the continuance of this traffic (hear, hear.) I do not think that he overrates the numbers that are sacrificed in attempting to gain the price of the blood and sinews of the unfortunate men who are the victims of this system. In what light, I ask, must we, professing Christianity, exhibit ourselves to the people of Africa? What must they think of the precepts and doctrines and practices of that religion which we profess, when Europeans can be parties to the encouragement of this iniquitous traffic? (hear, hear.) That is one of the great evils of it. It is an impediment to the spread of Christianity; for a savage people never can believe that those are really in possession of the truths of that religion to which they take pride in professing to belong, who can be parties to the infliction of such misery as that which is inflicted in consequence of the perpetration of these crimes. Sir, I say, too, with the noble lord, and it ought to be known, that there are two countries, and two only, now mainly responsible for the continuance of these crimes. There is, on the part of every other civilised country, with the exception of two, a desire to co-operate in the suppression of the trade in man. If Spain and if Brazil would zealously apply themselves to the suppression of the slave-trade in those parts of the world within which they can exercise jurisdiction, in my opinion the slave-trade might and would be suppressed



entirely (hear, hear). France, Portugal, Denmark—to her honour, I believe, she led the way, she set the example—this country, the United States of America, Prussia, Russia, Austria—every one of these powers is ready to co-operate in the suppression of the slave-trade. But while those two powers oppose themselves to the suppression of it, no effectual progress can be made. Deep public guilt is upon the heads of those who derive a profit from the continuance of the slave-trade, and who do not attempt to suppress it. It can clearly be shown that these are the two only countries, Spain and Brazil, that lend a sanction to the continuance of the traffic, and that they are the only two countries that derive a profit from it. They have the power to suppress it, and without their goodwill, whatever exertions we may make—whatever sacrifices we may impose upon the people of this country—it is nearly impossible for us, almost unaided as I think we are in this respect, in active exertions to suppress the slave-trade on the coasts of the Brazils and Cuba, effectually to succeed. We can do much, no doubt, towards its suppression; but perfect success we cannot hope for, except with the co-operation of the Spanish and Brazilian governments, who, whatever the gallantry of our sailors may achieve, and whatever the public burdens we may be willing to incur, are constantly counteracting and defeating, and by the connivance of the local authorities preventing the success of our efforts. It would be easy to show that Spain and Brazil might if they chose suppress this trade. Brazil made the attempt in 1840 and 1841, when the authorities interfered for the purpose of suppressing it, and the effect was immediate. During that period the government of Brazil, and the authorities acting under the direction of that government, did actually interfere and did discourage this traffic, and there was consequently a considerable diminution in the number of slaves imported into Brazil. With respect to Cuba, the experience of the last two years proves conclusively that it is in the power of an honest and active governor—setting his face with determination against the continuance of that traffic, notwithstanding all the incitements which avarice and love of gain may interpose—to take effectual measures for its suppression (hear, hear). I do think it greatly to the credit of the person who lately exercised power in Spain—I mean General Espartero—it is greatly to his credit, and to the credit of the government with which he was connected, that he appointed to take the command in Cuba (hear, hear) an honourable and enlightened man like Gen. Valdez (cheers), who refused to participate in the gains which his predecessors had profited by from conniving at this traffic, and who called together the holders of estates and the merchants in Cuba, and told them that the orders of his government and his own sense of duty compelled him to discourage this traffic, and that discourage it he would. And for a time, as long as it was possible for him to do so, he adhered to that determination. The result was most extraordinary during the period that General Valdez administered the functions of the government in Cuba. In the year 1842 the importation of slaves did not exceed 3,100 men; when he assumed the government, the importations were, I believe, about 14,000. If I recollect right, in the very first year of his government a diminution took place, and the number imported was but 8,000; and in 1842, the last year of his government, the number was only 3,000. Thus I have attempted to show that when in 1840 and 1841 Brazil honestly exerted herself, there was a great diminution in the traffic in slaves. I have attempted to show that when there was an active and honest governor, determined to perform his duty, fulfilling his engagements towards this country, and acting on the instructions he received from the honest and enlightened government of which he was the officer, that then, as far as Cuba was concerned, the slave-trade was effectually suppressed. Now these are decisive proofs that without the concurrence of the national and local authorities in Brazil and Cuba success is unattainable, but that with their concurrence it is possible and certain. *I, therefore, charge the governments of those countries for the whole of the responsibility and for the whole of the sufferings which are now endured in consequence of the slave-trade* (cheers). I do hope then that that part of the statement made by the noble lord, and confirmed by his successors in the administration, will have some effect. I do hope that the governments and people of these countries will, from a regard to humanity and the dictates of religion, feel the grievous responsibility which has now devolved upon them—will feel that the eyes of Europe and of the whole civilised world are on them, and that they are the responsible parties for the continuance of the traffic. But if these higher considerations and purer motives do not prevail, let me warn them of the danger they are incurring—let me advise the government of Spain to look well at the present condition of Cuba. That country is in such a state that the tenure of power is most precarious. There is a feeling of determination on the part of the slave population to rid themselves of the evils which they are enduring, and which makes suffering and death light considerations in the balance (hear, hear). Torture has been applied under the sanction of the authorities—confessions have been made, and those confessions implicate almost the whole population (hear, hear). It is not a dissatisfaction with any particular law; it is not the amount of labour which is required to be performed in this or that place—it is the denial of the right of man to hold his fellow-creature as a slave which has spread throughout the whole of the black population of that country, exceeding vastly as they do, in numbers and physical strength, the whites by whom they are kept in check, and affording conclusive evidence that there is a settled deep determination to emancipate themselves from such a state of slavery as that to which they have been subjected. Those who have taken the most active part in this conspiracy are those who have been most recently brought from the coasts of Africa—men who are unenlightened by any education, and without the means of combination and conspiracy which must exist amongst those who have received some education. Surely, then, if purer and higher motives fail to influence the government of Spain, those of interest and policy must force themselves on its consideration (cheers). What I am stating is the truth, and nothing but the truth. It is confirmed by insurrections which are suppressed only by military force, and by the subsequent enforcement of the law, (for I presume it is the law in Cuba), in a manner which I will not detail, and which, although it may insure temporary obedience, can only in its ultimate results tend to confirm the impressions we have held (hear, hear). Therefore, sir, I do make this appeal, in the face of the British parliament, to those two countries which are responsible for the continuance of this traffic, not only by considerations of duty and regard to the positive will and order of the Supreme Being we all worship, but also

from a regard to the most ordinary considerations of policy and self-interest. I am prepared to defend the present government from the charge preferred by the noble lord. His first ground of imputation was the conduct of the present government with respect to the treaty signed with France in the year 1841. The noble lord said the treaty was made ready for signature, and was signed on the part of the French government by the representative of that government having full authority; there was no allegation that that representative had exceeded his power; and certainly, under the ordinary rules which governed transactions of this description, we had a fair right to expect that a treaty so signed would have been ratified. So far as the King of the French and the government of France were concerned, I believe every honest effort was made to fulfil that expectation. But certain feelings of national pride did oppose themselves to the ratification of that treaty, and for raising those feelings I hold the noble lord responsible. The treaty of the 15th July, 1840, which interrupted our friendly relations with France, was the cause of that excitement in the public mind which, being represented and having its effect in the Chamber, prevented the government from ratifying the treaty. The next point the noble lord urged as a proof that we had not advanced but retrograded with respect to the slave-trade, was, that we have not taken the same view as himself respecting the destruction of the barracoons on the coast of Africa. The noble lord said he gave letters to naval officers, to have no very nice regard to the law of nations, but to destroy the barracoons, and liberate the slaves wherever they might find them. I must say, however, that I think by far the best course for this country to pursue in its relations to other powers, whether civilized or otherwise, is to adhere to the principles and established rules which regulate the intercourse of nations. No doubt we are a powerful country. No doubt it is possible for us to enter upon the coast of Africa and destroy these places; but it is important to know how other nations would regard such acts. Savage nations, perhaps, may make no demand for redress, but other European powers have interests on the coast of Africa; and, if we disregard the law of nations, we may have to decide whether or no we will persevere in the course we have adopted or acknowledge ourselves in the wrong, and make compensation for the injury we have committed. The ordinary course in these matters is to take the advice of the legal adviser of the Crown. We, therefore, referred this matter to the Queen's Advocate. We told him we were most anxious to exercise every power we possessed for preventing the slave-trade, and wished to know if complaint were made whether we should be justified in the course the noble lord recommended? His answer was, that no law gave us a right to do this, and that if a life was lost, and we could be amenable to any tribunal, we should be chargeable with murder (hear, hear). We inquired whether the law of nations or the usage of nations would justify us in destroying the barracoons; and the opinion of the Queen's Advocate was, that, without a convention with a native African prince, we should not be justified, and, as in the former case, we should be responsible for what might occur. Under these circumstances we thought it right to give instructions to the naval officers to destroy these barracoons, where it could be done with sufficient legal authority, but otherwise to abstain from doing so until their proceedings could be justified by law. But as the opinion given to us was that we might do this with the consent of the native princes, we instructed them to make such treaties where it was practicable; and told them that we would support them when they acted under them (hear, hear). Now I ask, under these circumstances, whether there is good grounds for the noble lord's imputations on the government? I say ours is the wiser course. The noble lord might perhaps liberate here and there a thousand slaves, and alarm the slave-traders of Cuba by exercising powers beyond the law. But, in my opinion, it is better to exhibit ourselves to the native African princes as bound by the same rule with other powers, and that, whatever may be the extent of our power, we will not effect even good and laudable objects except in the spirit of law and justice (hear, hear). The next point to which the noble lord referred is, to what has been called, although it is not technically such, the blockade of the coast of Africa, or the increase of our naval force there for the purpose of preventing the departure of vessels laden with slaves. The noble lord may be able to form a competent opinion on this question, but I can only say, if he denies that it will be effectual, we have had the opinion of several distinguished naval officers who have been stationed on the coast of Africa, and they concur in recommending it to the government as the most effectual measure that can be adopted for the suppression of the slave-trade. Captain Matson, a most distinguished naval officer, and most competent to form a correct judgment on the subject—Captain Denman, an officer equally distinguished, and having had great experience on that coast, and Captain Tucker—all concur in pointing this out as the most effectual method of putting down the slave-trade (hear, hear). With these great naval authorities in our favour, we have felt it our duty to make this experiment. But it was not on these opinions only that the government acted. We did not take it for granted these opinions were correct. We referred these opinions to the high and tried authority of my right hon. friend (Sir G. Cockburn), who having taken time, as is his wont, to consider the question, came to the conclusion that it might not inevitably succeed, but that there was an infinitely greater chance of its succeeding than stationing the ships at Brazil and Cuba (hear, hear). I must observe, also, that the noble lord is wrong in supposing that it follows as a matter of course, that when we add to the force on the coast of Africa we must withdraw our force on the coast of Brazil. There is also this advantage, that at Brazil there is a constant demand for our force for other purposes, which cannot be the case on the coast of Africa. With every wish to employ it solely for its specific object, it will sometimes happen, as in the present case of the war between Buenos Ayres and Monte Video, that it is called in aid for the protection of the lives and property of her Majesty's subjects. It may be said that they ought not to attend to these requisitions. But depend upon it such requisitions will always be attended to. You have, therefore, a much greater chance of its continuous and uninterrupted action against the slave-trade on the coast of Africa, than you can have on the coast of Brazil. But, as I said, it by no means follows that you should altogether cease your precautionary measures on the coast of Brazil. I agree, if you did so, and trusted altogether to precautionary measures on the coast of Africa, there would be great risk of evasion, and that slaves would be landed on the coast of Brazil; and, therefore, I by no means advise the



immediate cessation of such precautions (hear, hear). In these attempts it is a subject of great congratulation that we have obtained the aid of France, and that the good understanding which now subsists between this country and that country may, notwithstanding what has been suggested to the contrary, be maintained without any sacrifice of high feeling or of national honour.

Sir C. NAPIER would have been glad had the right hon. baronet told the house what were the instructions given to British cruisers in case an American cruiser was not in sight, and they came up with a suspicious vessel sailing under the American flag. In such a case he should be glad to know whether a British cruiser was justified in boarding the vessel, for the purpose of ascertaining whether she had merely hoisted the American flag to cover her traffic in slaves.

Sir R. PEEL immediately rose, and said he trusted his right hon. friend would not give the required explanation. We had received no particulars of the instructions furnished by the American government to their cruisers, and he did not see the expediency of giving such an answer as was sought for by the hon. and gallant member. The last accounts which had been received were of a satisfactory nature. Captain Foot's letter to the American commodore, offering his cordial co-operation to prevent slavery, had been met in a friendly spirit, and her Majesty's government had been assured that every hope existed of a continuance of the friendly understanding which at present existed with the cruisers of the United States.

Mr. P. BORTHWICK thought it was of the utmost importance that the plan of the noble lord and the right hon. baronet, since they appeared agreed on the same plan, should be immediately adopted against Spain and Brazil, which were the only two outstanding powers who did not join to put an end to the odious traffic.

Captain PECHILL said, the right hon. baronet had, with his usual caution, prevented the first lord of the Admiralty giving a reply to the question of his hon. and gallant friend (Sir C. Napier). He was most anxious to have an explanation of this part of the question, of how the officers on service were to conduct themselves on this difficult question? He was very glad to find American vessels co-operating with ours, and he hoped this good feeling would continue.

Viscount PALMERSTON said he was glad to find that he and the right hon. baronet were not likely to differ as to the question of barracoons. It was useful that slave-traders should know that it was the intention of the government to avail themselves of the powers which the convention with the native chiefs gave, of rooting out those nests of pirates which infested that part of the African coast. He was exceedingly glad to hear a confirmation of the good effects of the distinguished administration of General Valdez in Cuba. If the Spanish governors were honestly disposed to do their duty, the task of the British government in the suppression of the slave-trade would be light indeed. He trusted that the course of friendly representation and strong remonstrance which the government intended to pursue towards the governments of Spain and Brazil would produce the effect of awakening those governments to a sense of the obligations which they owed, not merely to us, but to themselves and to the faith of treaties.

Sir R. PEEL begged to add to the motion a list of the cases adjudged under the slave-trade treaties, and the number of slaves emancipated at Sierra Leone, Rio Janeiro, Havana, and Surinam, from 1819 to 1844.

Mr. HUME wished other places to be included.

Sir R. PEEL assented, and the motion as amended was agreed to.

### Foreign Intelligence.

UNITED STATES.—ANNEXATION.—The President, on the 11th, as you are already informed, sent a message to the house of representatives in relation to the annexation of Texas to the United States, which message, with the documents accompanying it, was referred to the committee on foreign affairs. That committee has made no report, and Congress have adjourned without action on the subject. The whole Whig party in Congress have opposed annexation in every form in which it has been presented to the national legislature. I think they will continue to do so; but the friends of annexation have such a deep pecuniary interest in the question, that they will continue to press it upon the administration and the country with unceasing zeal until the termination of the presidential contest. Congress will not again convene until the first week in December, unless called together sooner by the President. It has been rumoured that Mr. Tyler contemplates an extra session shortly after the members have mingled with their constituents, believing, as it is said he does, that the people will change their opinions, and consequently the action of their representatives, on the question of Texan annexation, and especially in the south and south-west. If an extra session should be held in September or October, I have no doubt it will keep up, if not greatly increase, the excitement on the subject of annexation; but if not, then I think the excitement will gradually subside. Among other rumours, it is said "that letters have been written to Texas to persuade the Texans not to make any bargain with England, but to await the issue of the coming elections. A letter to the same effect from members of Congress to the Texan Congress and people is contemplated." These movements indicate that the friends of annexation yet hope something may be done by this government, and give countenance, in some measure, to the opinion that an extra session of Congress may be contemplated.—*Correspondent of the Times.*

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.—Two gentlemen in Green township were lately sued for employing coloured persons, who had not given bonds and security according to the statute, the coloured men, formerly the slaves of Dr. Brisbane, in South Carolina, lately brought to this State, and set free. The trustees of the township were non-suited, on the ground, stated by the justice, that no testimony had been produced to show that the coloured persons employed had immigrated to the State—and this was required by the statute.—*Cin. Chron.*

ORDERED TO LEAVE.—We learn from the New Orleans papers, that several free blacks have been ordered to leave that city, also the State of Louisiana, within sixty days. A celebrated barber, named Napoleon Bonaparte Goins, has been ordered to start, but his wife, being a straight-haired creole, is not obliged to follow him.—*Boston Chronicle.*

MEXICO AND TEXAS.—At Washington some stir had been created by the arrival of a special messenger with dispatches for General Almonte, the resident Mexican Minister in America. Several of the New York papers proclaimed that Mexico was decidedly favourable to the annexation, and would gladly join the Union at any price. However, the very contrary of this turns out to be the fact. The *New York Commercial Advertiser* has it that Santa Anna would not listen to any overture for the acquisition of Texas by the United States, but repeated his former declaration, that the annexation would be regarded by Mexico as a declaration of war. Such, moreover, was the tone of the Mexican papers without exception. The officers of the Poinsett reported at Mobile that 14,000 troops had assembled and were quartered at Vera Cruz, and that large quantities of military stores were arriving there. An English brig with ammunition, &c., had just arrived from Tobasco. The Mexican authorities were loud in their denunciations of vengeance against the United States, and threatened to send an army to Washington if the Texan treaty of annexation is ratified. A Spanish journal, published in New York, gives the text of a dispatch from Senor Bocanegra, the Mexican Foreign Minister, to General Almonte, which reached the latter gentleman on Thursday, by way of Havana. This dispatch was forwarded after the arrival of Mr. G. L. Thompson at the city of Mexico, on his mission from the government of the United States; and was forwarded by way of Havana, expressly to meet and contradict any rumours that might be set afloat in this country, of willingness on the part of Mexico to assent to the annexation of Texas. Senor Bocanegra informs General Almonte, in the most emphatic terms, that Mexico will never assent to the annexation—that the government and the nation are immovably determined to resist the project and reject all proposals for its consummation, whether accompanied or not by offers of compensation. And General Almonte is authorized and instructed to contradict, in the most formal manner, any assertion or intimation of a different character.—*Correspondent of the Morning Herald.*

### Miscellanea.

THE RAPID has been most actively and successfully employed on the African coast. On the 15th of February last she had a dashing affair with a Spanish slaver, completely armed, which she captured with her boats in the river Bimbia. The boats had to sustain a long galling fire of musketry in pulling up the river, but when they got alongside, the slave crew ran below and cried for mercy. It was a gallant affair, and the crew of the *Rapid* appear to have behaved with much courage. One man was killed and two wounded. The *Rapid* has been on the coast two years, during which time she has captured seven slave vessels, containing 1288 slaves. The letter we have received, speaking of one of the slave vessels captured, states that her deck was only four feet from floor to beam, where the slaves were literally stowed in bulk, men, women, and children all huddled together; that the effluvia ascending up the hatchway was not approachable, from the extreme filth, heat, moisture, and stench from the slave-deck, where several poor creatures were found dead, trodden under feet by the living; that no imagination can paint the sufferings that these poor miserable Africans undergo; and that in general all the vessels captured partook more or less of the deplorable condition of this one that he particularises; and immorality, disease, and death were prevalent in all of them.—*Morning Herald.*

USE OF THE AMERICAN FLAG IN THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.—Extract of a letter, written by a respectable American ship-master, and dated Zanzibar, January 29, 1844:—"I arrived here December 19th, after a very tedious passage along the coast, stopping at Delagoa Bay, Quilimane, Mozambique, Ebo, and Majunga. The first four ports are Portuguese, and formerly slave marts. At present the trade is carried on to some extent, although the English are doing all in their power to prevent it; but since the right of visit is not allowed by America, much abuse is made of the American flag in the traffic. Indeed, the Portuguese tell me they have no fear of detection when once on the ocean. For instance, I met the master of a Portuguese vessel, fitted as a whaler, with boats, &c. He left the coast a few days after my last voyage, with 1,100 slaves. When off the Cape of Good Hope, he met the English admiral, in a frigate, who pursued him. He accordingly hoisted American colours. The frigate hailed him, but a few yards distant; all he could say in English was 'Fish,' which satisfied the English admiral, who bore up, wishing him a pleasant passage—the ladies on board the frigate waving their handkerchiefs as a parting salute. The slaver went on his way rejoicing, and landed on the Brazil coast 1035 slaves, making an enormous profit on the speculation."

COOLY EMIGRATION.—At the last Quarterly General Court of East India proprietors, Mr. G. Thompson said that complaints had reached this country of a grievance which called for the immediate interference of the directors. It was stated that the ships employed to convey the Hill Coolies from the Mauritius to their native country were but badly contrived for such a purpose, and that the Coolies were crowded in them to their annoyance and injury. The Government of India had no authority to interfere, or to make regulations which would be binding on the functionaries in the Mauritius. He did hope, under these circumstances, that the directors would impress on her Majesty's Government the necessity of sending out instructions to the Mauritius, so that the grievance might be removed. Those Hill Coolies had immigrated to the Mauritius under strong encouragements from the Government of India, and care ought to be taken that every facility should be given to them on their return, at the termination of their contract. The Chairman said that he had got no information on the subject. With respect to the grievance itself, all he could say was, that if the enactments of that statute were violated, the offending parties would be liable to prosecution. He would make inquiries on the subject.

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Wednesday, July 24, 1844.